

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BEVERLY O'NEILL, A LONG BEACH
ICON

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, as Women's History Month comes to a close for 2014, I think it is appropriate to highlight the life and work of one of the most influential and iconic women from my district: Beverly O'Neill.

She was an educator, a mayor, and a leader. She remains a dear friend to me and an icon to a huge portion of Long Beach.

Her determined guidance, over an unprecedented three terms as Mayor from 1994 to 2006, led the City of Long Beach through a transformation from "the smallest big city" on the West Coast to a thriving international destination and gateway known throughout the world.

Born in Long Beach as Beverly Joy Lewis before the city became a World War II Navy boomtown, Beverly attended Polytechnic High School and went on to graduate from California State University, Long Beach. She eventually earned not one, not two, but five different teaching credentials and spent 31 years as an educator at Long Beach City College before becoming the college's President in 1988.

Shortly after being elected as mayor of Long Beach in 1994, as only the second directly elected mayor in city history, she and the city faced the closure of the Long Beach Naval Shipyard and the tens of thousands of city jobs connected to it. Her resolute determination and leadership to keep the city on an even keel during this difficult time and her empathy and compassion for those impacted by the job cuts endeared her to many in the city.

In her election to a second term in 1998, she received 80 percent of the vote. She continued to guide the city past its reliance on a single industry as the core employer in the city, focusing instead on a diversified economic base.

Termed out in 2002, Beverly decided to run for a third term as a write-in candidate. The citizens of Long Beach gave her a third term and made her the first mayor of a major U.S. city to be elected in a write-in campaign.

By the time she stepped down in 2006, Long Beach had made the difficult economic transition from Navy town to an international gateway and home to one of the busiest maritime ports in the Western Hemisphere.

Still a powerful force for good in the city, Beverly remains busy with numerous civic boards.

Her disarming and unshakable positivity for the city she loved, her compassion for the people she served, and the incredible leadership with which she inspired a generation of citizens has left an indelible mark on the history and the future of Long Beach.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF HEIDI CUSICK DICKERSON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague MIKE THOMPSON to honor Heidi Cusick Dickerson, who is transitioning from her position as Congressional Representative after nine years of service and dedication to the people of Mendocino County.

Heidi served as Mendocino District Representative for Congressman MIKE THOMPSON for eight years, and has served as a District Representative in my Ukiah office since the beginning of the 113th Congress. Heidi is a recognized leader in the county. The residents of our Congressional Districts are better off today thanks to the work of Heidi Cusick Dickerson. Her passion for advocating for individuals in need of federal assistance as well as for championing community issues is unparalleled.

Throughout her time working on behalf of the people of Mendocino County, she has championed many successful projects, ranging from saving the Anderson Valley Health Clinic to ensuring that the Veterans History Project was a success each year. A dedicated public servant, Heidi coordinated a housing foreclosure conference to benefit the people of Mendocino and honored countless deserving citizens by presenting them with certificates of recognition on behalf of their Representative. A passionate advocate for Mendocino, Heidi continuously promoted the county's food and wine industries. Heidi worked tirelessly to secure appropriations for the Fort Bragg Coastal Trail and played an instrumental role in bringing the Point Arena-Stornetta public lands on the Mendocino coast into National Monument status this March. In addition, Heidi forged an historic partnership between tribal, state and federal agencies to protect salmon from poaching on the Garcia River.

Heidi's unyielding dedication to advocating on behalf of the people of our beloved county is greatly appreciated by the entire Mendocino community. We know that she will continue to be an ardent advocate for all things Mendocino and we wish her continued success in the future. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Heidi for her nine years of invaluable service to the people of Mendocino County.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 141, I was unable to attend. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

CALLING FOR DEPORTATION RELIEF AND FOR THE SWIFT ENACTMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my colleagues to expand the deferred action guidelines to provide deportation relief for the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents and DREAMers. Earlier this month, I joined some of my colleagues in asking President Obama to use his prosecutorial discretion at all levels of immigration enforcement proceedings.

A majority of my colleagues and I are committed to comprehensive immigration reform and have demanded a vote on the House Floor. It is imperative that the House put politics aside and work together to reach a compromise that will benefit our country, strengthen our economy, and allow 11 million people to step out of the shadows. The House must enact immigration reform that is fair and reflects the highest values of our nation. We are a country of immigrants and how we treat those who aspire to be citizens reflects our democracy's commitment to uphold the moral principles upon which our nation was built.

As we continue to fight for comprehensive immigration reform, we cannot ignore the fact that families and communities are being torn apart on a daily basis. The impact of watching a parent, sibling or child being ripped away from the family unit is crushing and causes untold damage. We must restore judicial discretion and expand deferred action guidelines to provide deportation relief to immigrants who have done nothing wrong but seek a better life for their children, their families, and themselves.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN BRITA

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a distinguished, dedicated and tireless civil servant, Susan Brita. Over 31 years, she has been a woman of unique and unmatched talent and expertise serving our government.

Ms. Brita is a 25 year resident of my congressional district, living in the City of Alexandria. She has held many high level positions over the years, as a chief of staff, Staff Director of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds, and most recently, Deputy Administrator at the General Services

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Administration. An invaluable champion for good governance, she is widely admired and deeply respected by countless colleagues and friends in the federal agencies and the U.S. Congress. Susan is a problem solver, tenacious ally, tough advocate and I'm proud to call her a friend.

Susan's expert work and support for managing federal facilities around the country has made our country stronger. She has been the author of legislation to develop highly visible projects in our nation's capital, such as the Old Post Office, the Southeast Federal Center, and the International Cultural Trade Center. These buildings will have an enduring influence on the topography of Washington, DC for centuries to come. As a dedicated civil servant and true patriot, Ms. Brita's leadership has set the bar high for those to come after her, and she will be solely missed.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations is in order for a job well done!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EASTERN
KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY BASKET-
BALL TEAM

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of the Eastern Kentucky University basketball team.

Throughout this season, these young athletes have shown a tremendous commitment to their team, ending their regular season with a record of 24 wins and 10 losses. Although everyone who is part of an athletic team shares in its ups and downs throughout the season, the leadership shown by Eastern Kentucky's seniors is commendable. In my opinion, there is no greater way to be an example of leadership than to lead by example. This was proven throughout the Colonels' season.

As one of only eight teams to represent East Kentucky in the school's history, their appearance in the NCAA tournament is a testament of their unity and drive as a team. During the tournament, they played valiantly in a close game against the Kansas Jayhawks. I am happy to see this type of dedication being applied by the students of the Sixth District, and I know their drive and determination will serve them well in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
OF CHRISTINE ANDERSON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleague MIKE THOMPSON today to recognize Christine Anderson, who is transitioning from her position as congressional representative after nine years of service and dedication to the people of Mendocino County.

Christine served as a Mendocino Constituent Services Representative for Congressman MIKE THOMPSON for eight years, and as a Field Representative for Congressman JARED HUFFMAN since the beginning of the

113th Congress. She is renowned in the county for her exceptional management of constituent services as she helped countless individuals throughout the region tackle challenging issues. From veterans services to homeowners facing foreclosures to senior citizens, Christine has worked tirelessly to improve conditions for others. Her work with the Congressional Art Competition and Veterans History Projects touched many students and community members, promoting educational and cultural experiences of the highest quality. Christine's sense of grace, professionalism, and compassion provided many Mendocino residents with the highest level of care and positive problem-solving on a variety of difficult issues, and she will be missed.

The residents of our congressional districts are better off today thanks to the work of Christine Anderson. Her commitment to advocating for individuals in need of federal assistance is appreciated and we wish her continued success in the future. Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we honor and thank Christine for her nine years of invaluable service to the people of Mendocino County.

2014 MAYORS DAY OF RECOGNITION
FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the 2014 Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service. The service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges. The nation's Mayors are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to meet city needs.

They address the most pressing challenges facing our cities and nation, from educating students for jobs of the 21st century and supporting veterans and military families to providing health services and helping communities recover from natural disasters. National service expands economic opportunity by creating more sustainable, resilient communities and providing education, career skills, and leadership abilities for those who serve.

National service participants serve in more than 60,000 locations across the country, including ninety service locations in Tucson bolstering the civic, neighborhood, and faith-based organizations that are so vital to our city's economic and social well-being. More than five hundred national service participants of all ages and backgrounds serve in Tucson, providing vital support to city residents and improving the quality of life in our city.

National service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages non-federal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; including more than \$3,439,824 in Tucson. They demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service, a commitment that remains with them in their future endeavors.

The Corporation for National and Community Service shares a priority with mayors nationwide to engage citizens, improve lives, and strengthen communities. They are joining with the National League of Cities, City of Service,

and mayors across the country to recognize the impact of service on the Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service on April 1, 2014.

We commend all of those who participate in national service for their dedication to the betterment of their communities.

HONORING PEGGY KIRK BELL,
FIRST FEMALE CPGA HALL OF
FAME INDUCTEE

HON. RENEE L. ELLMERS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mrs. ELLMERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to extend sincere congratulations to Southern Pines' very own Peggy Kirk Bell. On February 16, Peggy made history as the first female inductee into the Carolinas PGA Hall of Fame. For 33 years, the CPGA Hall of Fame has honored and praised individuals living within the Carolinas for their remarkable contributions to the game of golf, and Mrs. Bell's induction is long overdue.

Peggy is a golf legend with numerous accomplishments. She has shepherded the way for women golfers by being known as the first widely acclaimed teacher of women's golf, serving as a Charter Member of the LPGA, and also as chairwoman of the largest girl's golf tour in the country. Through the Peggy Kirk Bell Girls Golf Tour, she has provided top-level competitive golfing opportunities to thousands of girls across the Carolinas.

In 1949, Peggy won the North & South Amateur Women's title at Pinehurst No. 2 and was selected to become a member of the 1950 USGA Curtis Cup Team. She was the winner of the first LPGA Senior Championship, and the first woman inductee into Golf Magazine's World Golf Teacher Hall of Fame. In addition to her personal accomplishments, Bell has advocated to have major golf championships played in the Carolinas, several of which were hosted at her own resort: The Pine Needles Lodge & Golf Club.

The second district of North Carolina is fortunate to have someone who has dedicated their lifetime to promoting the game of golf and expanding opportunities to young girls across the state. She is an inspiration to all within the golf industry, and her induction into the Carolinas PGA Hall of Fame rightfully cements her place in history.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
METROPOLITAN PHILIP SALIBA

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Metropolitan Philip Saliba. His Eminence Metropolitan Philip was the Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America since 1966.

Born in Lebanon, Metropolitan Philip led the American Antiochian Orthodox church through the latter half of the twentieth century and ushered the church into the new millennium before passing away this past March. Throughout his life, he continually ministered to the

faithful and was a prominent voice for peace and compassion in the Middle East. Where others doubted he projected hope and met each challenge with determination and courage.

Metropolitan Philip's deep faith led him to always serve and place others before himself, whether it was the President of the United States or a member of the church. His legacy of stewardship includes helping the Arab Christian community adapt to life in America while still retaining and sharing their deep, rich roots with their new communities. His leadership also allowed the church to expand and saw the number of parishes quadruple. In an age of declining church attendance his spirit nurtured growth.

Metropolitan Philip will be remembered foremost as a man of God as well as a uniter, theologian, author, humanitarian and a warm friend. Over the years Metropolitan Philip has been very good to me along with countless others. I am deeply saddened by his death and my thoughts and prayers go out to his family and all of those who have been blessed to have him as part of their lives.

Both the church and the country have lost an individual who possessed a deep and enduring faith, who passionately advocated for those in need and stood up for what he believed in.

Mr. Speaker, I close with the sentiment that the greatest way to honor Metropolitan Philip's legacy would be to emulate the manner in which he lived his life, which stands as a testament to a calling devoted to others.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF OREN LYONS
AS THE 2014 WISDOM KEEPER
AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. MAFFEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Chief Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan, Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs of the Six Nations of the Iroquois, the Haudenosaunee, as the 2014 Wisdom Keeper Award Recipient.

The 2014 Wisdom Keeper award will be presented to Chief Lyons at The F.O.C.U.S. Wisdom Keeper Event on April 2, 2014 at the Nicholas J. Pirro Convention Center at Oncenter in Syracuse, New York. The Wisdom Keeper Award recognizes community leaders that have enriched our community with their wisdom, perseverance and passion. Award winners are commemorated with bronze plaques placed in the F.O.C.U.S. Wisdom Keeper Garden in the City of Syracuse.

Chief Lyons was an All-American lacrosse player at Syracuse University, playing next to the great two-sport All-American Jim Brown. Today, Chief Lyons is enshrined in the Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

Chief Lyons has relished in a spiritually rich and fulfilling life, and has contributed immensely to the cause of passing on a clean and fruitful earth to future generations. Chief Lyons is the recipient of The Earth Day International United Nations Award. Chief Lyons

has also been awarded the National Audubon Award, the Elder and Wiser Award of the Rosa Parks Institute of Human Rights, as well as the Ellis Island Congressional Medal of Honor.

Chief Lyons has been a tireless advocate for the rights of Indigenous peoples. He worked to establish the Working Group of Indigenous Populations at the United Nations in 1982. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival. Chief Lyons recently was awarded Sweden's Friends of the Children Award, along with Nelson Mandela. In 1992, Chief Lyons addressed the U.N. General Assembly as he commenced the International Year of the World's Indigenous People.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Chief Oren Lyons as the 2014 Wisdom Keeper Award recipient. May he continue to be a leading force for all that is good and fair for our future generations in an ever-changing world.

CELEBRATING STEVE SWOFFORD'S
25TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Steve Swofford's 25th Anniversary as Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Rockwall. He has served the congregation and his community with humility, humor, and a love that stems from his faith in Jesus Christ. I know the First Family of FBC Rockwall is thankful for the Swoffords and for Steve's leadership over the years, and that they join me in celebrating this special occasion.

Steve grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, and accepted Christ as his personal Savior as a high school junior. He felt the call to ministry a year later and went on to receive his Bachelor's degree from Dallas Baptist University and his Master's from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. He was blessed with many supportive relationships and his faith was made stronger through the spiritual guidance of his first pastor, Bob Graham; his favorite high school teacher, F.J. Lykins; and Pastor Gene Reynolds. Steve's wife Brenda, whom he married in 1973, has also been a true helpmate to him and their church family.

Steve began his ministry in the Dallas area and was soon drawn to Rockwall because of the untapped potential of First Baptist and the closeness of the community. Over the 25 years Steve has faithfully served the First Family, the church has seen tremendous growth—growing from 800 members to over 4,000. In order to meet the needs of the growing church body, FBC, which began with one Sunday morning worship service and Sunday School, now holds three Sunday morning worship services and three Sunday Schools. Bible Study attendance has likewise grown from 200 people to almost 1,500. To meet space demands, four new buildings and five new parking lots have been built. As a Pastor with deep convictions to actively spread the Gospel,

Steve has also led FBC Rockwall to give nearly \$8.5 million on behalf of world missions—not one penny of which stayed in the church.

It is important to note that Steve's ministry goes beyond the walls of First Baptist. He serves at the local, state, and national level in Baptist endeavors, and especially enjoys serving the Rockwall community as chaplain with the Rockwall police and fire departments where he can provide spiritual and emotional support to those in need.

Without a doubt, God has strengthened and helped Pastor Swofford as he has faithfully served the First Family of FBC Rockwall these past 25 years. I am sure that Steve and Brenda share their accomplishments together—and that they attribute all success to Christ for His Glory.

I am also personally indebted to Pastor Steve for his participation in the service for my late wife, Mary Ellen. His generosity to a fellow believer—outside his church membership but still a brother in Christ—is not forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Pastor Steve Swofford's 25 years of faithful leadership to the members of First Baptist Church of Rockwall. He is truly a servant of God, and the First Family and Rockwall community are blessed to have him. Even more so, we are blessed to live in a country founded on Christian principles where pastors like Steve Swofford can proclaim the Gospel freely.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED EM-
PLOYEES OF HOPE CREEK CARE
CENTER IN EAST MOLINE, ILLI-
NOIS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated employees at Hope Creek Care Center in East Moline, Illinois.

The devoted staff of Hope Creek, members of AFSCME Local 2371, are a special group who are often regarded as extended family members to the residents and their loved ones. They don't do what they do for the money. The employees there genuinely care about the people.

Some of the more prominent residents who continue to benefit from the excellent care that Hope Creek provides include former U.S. Congressman Lane Evans and former Rock Island County State's Attorney Marshall Douglas, Sr. But make no mistake, everyone who lives there receives the same first-rate care and services.

Hope Creek, a publicly owned nursing home, is currently facing a possible sale by the county board to a private corporation. Whatever the outcome, I hope that the same standard of excellence that Hope Creek is known for continues, and that starts with the quality staff.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to know that first-rate facilities such as these exist, and I want to thank the wonderful staff for their contributions to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the creation of United States Air Force Academy on 1 April 1954, and offer remarks to honor this youngest of our nation's service academies. Birthed in the minds of visionary post Army Air Corps leaders and the Eisenhower Administration, the Air Force Academy has become the most forward looking military institution and premiere Aerospace Military Academy imaginable during the second half of the 20th Century. Residing in the bedrock of the Colorado Rocky Mountains the United States Air Force Academy has fueled the heart, mind, and winning spirit of the U.S. Air Force by providing leaders who flew higher than its inspiring surrounding peaks.

Since its inception the U.S. Air Force Academy has produced over forty-six thousand young men and women officers and superior senior leaders across the span of six decades. These leaders provided the backbone of our Aerospace warriors, including the first Air Force ace from the Vietnam War, Captain Steve Ritchie and the first USAFA graduate to be given the Medal of Honor, Captain Lance Sijan. Since that era one hundred and eighty one graduates have given their lives in defense of our Nation. The lifeblood of the USAF leadership has flowed from the Academy over the decades, with contributions of 598 General officers and five Air Force Chiefs of Staff. As the premier academy to explore the final frontier of space the Academy has produced 38 Astronaut Graduates and continues to produce numerous strategic leaders in the military space arena.

The Air Force Academy has a longstanding tradition of producing both highly qualified and committed military officers combined with superbly educated college graduates from its halls of academic excellence. Over the years the Academy produced 37 Rhodes Scholars and the institution continues to be highly ranked in national college reviews such as *Forbes* and *US News and World Report* over more than three decades. Over the years the institution has scored in the top 100 of American colleges in numerous ranking publications. In college athletics USAFA competes in 17 NCAA sports conferences and continually performs extremely well in its various divisions. The Air Force Academy has won the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy on the gridiron 18 times, far surpassing the other Service Academies and brining national publicity to this Colorado institution.

Since its inception the United States Air Force Academy has continually trained, educated, and inspired young men and women to become leaders of character with the motivation to serve as Air Force career officers. It continues into its sixth decade of institutional defense contributions to the Nation by providing a unique blend of academic curriculum, military training, and leadership and physical development. This institution has become a historical wellspring of Air Force military lead-

ership which will continue to develop future generations to defend our precious United States of America. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to recognize our USAFA landmark as it contributes to the security of our democracy from its position anchored in the foothills of the Colorado Rockies.

HONORING PETER J. WIRS

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I join my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) in drawing attention to an event that is set to unfold on April 17 at USA Wrestling's National Open in Las Vegas, where Mr. Peter J. Wirs is set to become what I am told is the oldest person ever to step onto an international freestyle wrestling mat for his very first competitive match.

I was fortunate to be involved in the sport of wrestling from an early age. I know from personal experience just how much dedication and discipline the sport requires. When my teammates and I wrestled, we faced certain challenges, but the challenges Pete Wirs faces next month are far different: He is 59 years old, has suffered a heart attack and two strokes, and has diabetes.

While my colleague from Pennsylvania spoke about the importance of Mr. Wirs overcoming diabetes to wrestle, I would also note the corollary: He chose wrestling as the sport to overcome diabetes.

Wrestling is demanding. Who wins and who loses is decided solely by the two individuals squaring off on the mat. People have different opinions about what percent of training is physical and what percent is mental, but everyone agrees that wrestling is an incredibly demanding sport, both physically and emotionally.

Former Speaker Dennis Hastert, a former wrestling coach, often commented on the courage, discipline, and perseverance that wrestling demands. Paraphrasing the old introduction to ABC's *Wide World of Sports*, wrestling demonstrates the "thrill of victory and the agony of defeat."

That will be very important to remember on April 17, when Pete Wirs steps onto the mat. From one wrestler to another and one public official to another, I wish him the best of luck.

Mr. Speaker, you may remember that the International Olympic Committee's executive board voted last year to expel wrestling from the Summer Games. Thanks to the outcry from ordinary citizens from across America and around the world, the IOC General Assembly ultimately reversed the board's decision and reinstated the sport. But this decision gives wrestling only a temporary reprieve. It is still on probation, with its status in the future facing further challenges.

Our country should celebrate the thousands of amateur athletes who train for and compete in the sport of wrestling. Today, I am honored to commend Pete Wirs and all who rise to the challenge.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF COLONEL ROBERT K. THOMPSON, USAF

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Colonel Robert K. Thompson upon the occasion of his retirement after 29 years of honorable service to our great Nation in the United States Air Force and Air Force Reserve.

Colonel Thompson received his Air Force commission in 1985 as a distinguished ROTC graduate from Indiana University. After receiving his commission, he began an impressive career as a public affairs officer—a career that spanned nearly three decades and brought him to all corners of the world. Colonel Thompson's final assignment at Headquarters, United States Air Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C., as the Chief of Public Affairs for the Policy Integration Directorate, Office of Air Force Reserve, was in direct support of the Chief of Air Force Reserve, where he helped fulfill mission directives for more than 70,000 reservists at 34 wings and 12 groups.

Throughout his myriad deployments in Central and South America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and in the United States, Colonel Thompson championed America's First Amendment rights and goodwill in war zones and disaster areas. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, he expedited the story and video of the airstrike that killed al-Zarqawi, leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq. As NATO's top spokesman in Bosnia, he communicated the coalition's commitment to the Dayton Peace Accord and coalition efforts to remove landmines, disarm former combatants and capture war criminals leading to the arrest of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. Utilizing his experience and success as a public affairs officer, Colonel Thompson wrote the first draft of the Department of Defense's media plan for Operation Enduring Freedom, which helped inform the American people while also protecting operational security. At home, Colonel Thompson escorted FOX, CNN, and CBS aboard the Air Force's first-responder helicopters to cover the Winter Olympics in Utah and rescue operations during Hurricane Katrina, ultimately writing the plans for release of information critical for the general public to understand military disaster relief operations. Additionally, Colonel Thompson orchestrated better insight into our humanitarian efforts in Japan, Libya, and Haiti, where we helped open schools, medical clinics and the first transnational road built coast-to-coast by the U.S. military in Honduras.

In his most recent position as Chief of Public Affairs, Colonel Thompson played an integral role in Congressional proceedings relating to life-cycle manpower costs and force shaping. He also worked to provide input to our Nation's highest military and civilian leaders and informed the public on important Air Force developments, with more than 100 published news articles viewed by millions. Colonel Thompson's efforts have also been critical to implementing new laws and policies supporting combat veterans, reservists, their civilian employers, and their families, and championing increased utilization of an operational reserve.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful Nation, my wife Vicki and I extend our deepest appreciation of Colonel Thompson for his many years of dedicated service. There is no question that the Air Force, Department of Defense, and the United States benefitted greatly from Colonel Thompson's visionary leadership, planning, and foresight, and we wish him and his wife, Pam, the very best.

**SANFORD HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S
BASKETBALL TEAM**

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sanford High School men's basketball team and their coach, Rhett Larsen. Sanford's Indians claimed their sixth Class 2A state basketball title, with their previous titles coming in 1950, 1951, 1978, 1996, and 2006.

Sanford finished the season with a remarkable 26–1 record, capping it off with a championship win over Akron, 55–51 at the Colorado State University-Pueblo Massari Arena. The team made 17 free throws in the fourth quarter, making nine free throws in the final two minutes to clinch the victory.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Sanford's basketball team and their coach, Rhett Larsen. Under Coach Laresn's expert guidance, I have no doubt that Sanford will win many more state titles. I look forward to this group of young men's future successes on and off the basketball court.

HONORING PETER WIRS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter Wirs, a friend and a neighbor, who will soon become the first diabetic and oldest individual to step into an international freestyle wrestling mat at this year's USA Wrestling's National Open, taking place in Las Vegas on April 17. Peter Wirs currently serves as the 59th Republican Ward Leader in Philadelphia.

But despite what Peter has accomplished, diabetes continues to be an epidemic. One in 12 Americans has diabetes, and an additional one in 3 Americans is at risk for developing the disease. Every 17 seconds, another individual is diagnosed with diabetes. Shockingly, this disease kills more Americans every year than breast cancer and AIDS combined. The American Diabetes Association's latest research estimates the total costs of diagnosed diabetes have risen to \$245 billion in 2012 from \$174 billion in 2007, when the cost was last examined, representing a 41 percent over a five-year period. Diabetes costs severely impact American productivity, let alone billions in healthcare costs.

Pete Wirs could have given up ten years ago. When I first met Pete Wirs he weighed 250 lbs. Today, he weighs 180 lbs. He exercises at 5:30 in the morning every day, fol-

lowed by drills and wrestling holds and moves practice every night after work at the Pennsylvania Wrestling Club headquarters, located in my District.

Mr. Speaker, we don't know whether Leader Wirs will win or lose his first match. But no matter what the final score ends up being, Pete Wirs will have scored a moral victory by simply stepping onto the mat, by getting his diabetes under control, and by proving to all of us that physical fitness is not a diet or a fad, but a life-long commitment to healthy eating, continuous exercise, and sports activity.

Mr. Speaker, Pete Wirs remains an inspiration to all diabetics and indeed to all of us who should be exercising and participating in sports and recreation. I join my colleague, Congressman JIM JORDAN, in congratulating Leader Wirs, and all of his fellow team members, coaches and boosters in what is sure to be a sports event for the history books.

**IN MEMORY OF BERNADINO CRUZ,
JR., AND HIS PASSION FOR EDU-
CATION, MUSIC, AND THE
SOUTHWEST DETROIT COMMU-
NITY**

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Bernadino Cruz, Jr., an educator, a musician and a community activist in Southwest Detroit.

As an educator, Mr. Cruz shared his love of music and the learning process with his students as a music teacher at Burt Elementary and then at Cesar Chavez Academy. In each instance, he took his love of music and focused that passion into connecting his students with the importance of their education. At Burt Elementary, Mr. Cruz not only directly tied the music department programming into the school's curriculum, but also took the initiative to expand the array of programming available to students by establishing a concert choir. At Cesar Chavez, Mr. Cruz continued his track record of dedication to his students by establishing an instrumental music program and a touring bilingual concert choir. As an honor and testament to the remarkable impact Mr. Cruz made on the students at Cesar Chavez, the new media center at its high school will be dedicated to him.

After more than six years as a teacher, Mr. Cruz stepped into a new educational role as Assistant Principal at the Hope of Detroit Academy. In this position, he continued his commitment to engage his students in the educational process. His responsibilities included overseeing the entire school curriculum, management of day-to-day operations and management of student body behavior.

Furthermore, Mr. Cruz's passion for learning did not stop with his students—it is a value that he practiced in his own life as he continued to seek more knowledge in the field of education. Following his Bachelor of Arts in Music from Wayne State University, Mr. Cruz went on to receive additional certifications in education and education administration from Wayne State and Marygrove College in Detroit. With each new skill he developed, Mr. Cruz furthered his mission to empower his students with a quality education.

As a musician, Mr. Cruz shared his passion for music with the Southwest Detroit community in many ways. In addition to his role as a music teacher in the field of education, Mr. Cruz served as a music teacher at the Most Holy Redeemer Church and used his musical talents to support many causes focused on strengthening the Southwest Detroit community. Working together with his brother Mauro, Mr. Cruz also sought to build bridges of cultural understanding by taking traditional Latin music and incorporating new rhythms and styles that helped youth better connect to both their identity and heritage.

Mr. Speaker, leaders, educators and artists, like Mr. Bernadino Cruz, Jr., are so important to ensuring the success of the communities we represent. Mr. Cruz showed a passion and dedication for education, music and the Southwest Detroit community that have inspired so many to make a difference in their community. I join the Southwest Detroit community, and all whose lives have been influenced by Mr. Cruz and his enthusiasm, in the sadness that is felt for his loss. However, I know that his family can take comfort in the incredible difference he has made in the lives of so many people, and the inspiration his legacy will continue to instill in future generations.

**IN REMEMBRANCE OF LEONARD
WASSERMAN**

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Leonard J. Wasserman of Oregon, Ohio, who passed from this life on Monday, March 10, 2014. Len Wasserman was an indefatigable and socially minded leader on many fronts, dedicating his life to the service of his country and his local community.

After graduating from Olney High School in 1944, Len served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army during WWII. Following his service, he returned to Oregon, Ohio, to work as an engineer for Pure-Union oil, then as a chief engineer for Little Sisters of the Poor. In addition to his work as an engineer, he also enjoyed farming and continued pursuing this passion until his retirement in 2000.

In the city of Oregon, he has made an immeasurable impact through his active role in the community. He served the city in various capacities, ranging from Councilman, Mayor, member of T.M.O.C.O.G., and past chairman of the Safety Commission and the Oregon Growth Commission. Len also remained politically active throughout his life, through his involvement in the Oregon Democratic Club. He served as past president and was a lifetime member 45+ years precinct committeeman. He was also a life member of the St. Ignatius Church, serving the church in a variety of roles. Len was a member and past president of the Holy Name Society, church lector, Eucharistic minister, member and past president of St. Vincent DePaul Society, church councilman, usher, and past president of the church credit union. In addition to his involvement with the church, Len was also a member of the Christ Dunberger American Legion Post 537, where he served as chaplain and member of the color guard, V.F.W. 9816, life member of O.C.A.W. 346, Old News Boys, Eagles

2562, Swiss Club, G.A.F. Society, and the G.B.U.

Len Wasserman leaves to cherish his life and legacy his loving wife Wilma Wasserman, their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family and friends. May we join them in honoring the life and service of an exceptional man.

PINE RIVER LIBRARY

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding performance of the Pine River Library District in Bayfield, Colorado. For their continued excellence and service to their community, the Pine River Library District has been selected as the Best Small Library in America by the Library Journal for 2014.

The Board of Directors and entire staff have contributed to the development of a truly world-class facility that provides a diverse array of services to the Bayfield community. Pine River not only offers traditional library services, but provides patrons with laptops, GPS devices, and e-readers to check out and use. Their dedication to the community also extends to education, offering teen and youth programs, free film and documentary screenings, and community classes on a regular basis.

The library is committed to creatively engaging the public through hands-on understanding of sustainable agriculture and environmentally friendly research through their Living Library program. Everyone can come to the library and learn about sustainable foods in the community garden, explore a geodesic greenhouse, or take advantage of the upcoming tool lending program that will allow patrons to start their own garden at home. It is clear that Pine River is more than a library; it is a hub for knowledge and education that offers valuable resources to the Bayfield community every day.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize the passion for knowledge that the Pine River Library District represents and to congratulate them on their selection for this prestigious award. With their unique and comprehensive approach to learning, I am confident that they will continue to serve as an example to libraries worldwide.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, today I was unavoidably detained due to a family emergency and missed the following votes:

Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1459. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this motion.

H. Res. 524—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1459—Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments

Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this bill.

H.R. 1228—A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 South 9th Street in De Pere, Wisconsin, as the "Corporal Justin D. Ross Post Office Building," as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this bill.

H. Res. 524—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1459—Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act (Rep. BISHOP (UT)—Natural Resources). Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this rule.

An amendment, offered by Ms. TSONGAS, numbered 3 printed in House Report 113—385 to preserve the ability of the President to declare as national monuments those that provide for the "protection or conservation of historic or cultural resources related to American military history," regardless of their size. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on this amendment.

HONORING KEITH CARSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Keith Carson for his extraordinary career in public service. Mr. Carson is currently a member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors for District 5, where he has served his constituents with dedication.

A proud Berkeley native, Mr. Carson graduated from University of California, Berkeley with a bachelor of arts in social sciences. He went on to receive his master's degree in public administration from California State University, Hayward. Mr. Carson served as an aide for Congressman Ronald V. Dellums for 14 years before holding public office.

During his tenure on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Mr. Carson has promoted and continues to promote many beneficial programs for youth in Alameda County. Among these, Mr. Carson initiated the Family Journeys/Youth Ancestry Project in partnership with McClymonds High School, Berkeley Technical High School, Beyond Emancipation, the African American Genealogical Society and the staff at the Family History Center at the Mormon Temple. The Ancestry project is a semester long research project with the aim to spark conversations between youth, their parents, and other family members. Furthermore, Mr. Carson spearheaded a pilot youth bus pass program in 2001, providing AC Transit passes for all students in grades 6 through 12 who qualified for free and reduced lunch in the county.

Mr. Carson has also been at the forefront of the fight to improve health services in Alameda County. One example, Alameda County's Place Matters is an initiative designed to improve the health of communities by addressing the social conditions that lead to poor health. In addition, he pushed for the Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services to develop an African American Utilization Study to determine which behavioral health care services in Alameda County African Americans utilize in an effort to better serve the population.

Mr. Carson is keenly committed to community leadership, serving as chairman of several Alameda County committees and organizations. He currently sits on the Board for the Alameda County East Bay Economic Development Alliance, one of the largest business organizations serving the East Bay Area. Mr. Carson is also the Chairman of the Alameda County Budget Work Group and is a member of the Alameda County Transportation Commission. Moreover, he represents the Alameda Board of Supervisors in State and national organizations, including the Board of Directors for the California State Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties.

Throughout his prolific career, Mr. Carson has been praised for his commitment and contributions to the community. He has worked tirelessly to enhance the lives of the community he serves through public service and raising awareness on critical social issues.

It is a privilege to call Keith one of my closest personal friends. We have traveled to Cuba, Africa, and Asia together and have shared many unique experiences in learning about the world and our responsibilities as global citizens. As our beloved, the late Supervisor John George instructed us—think locally, act globally. Keith's life is the epitome of that wisdom. As a longtime friend, Keith not only supports my work as an elected official, but constantly checks in with me to remind me of the importance of work-life balance, whether it's taking time to rest, exercise, eat properly, and spend time with my family. He cares deeply about my personal well being given the 24/7 nature of my work and for that, my family and I are deeply grateful.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Mr. Keith Carson, I salute you. I thank you for a lifetime of service and congratulate you on your many achievements. I wish you continued success as you serve the residents of the East Bay.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNM UNDERGRADUATE MOCK TRIAL TEAM

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the hard work and impressive accomplishments of the Undergraduate Mock Trial Team at the University of New Mexico. This determined group of students recently competed in a regional tournament in California, where their performance earned them a trip to the opening round of the national competition. Following a strong second place finish in that round, the team has qualified to move to the next round taking place later this month in Orlando, Florida.

In addition to their success in the regional tournament and the opening round competition, the team has traveled around the West, placing first in a competition in Colorado Springs, and giving impressive performances in competitions in Texas and California. While their success in mock trial competitions is a source of pride, it is their initiative and leadership as a self-coached group that is so impressive.

While many of the teams it competes against have a faculty or professional attorney

coaching them, the UNM team has taken upon themselves to manage, train, and govern their own team. Founded four years ago, the students have worked diligently over that time, as they have improved their skills and turned their vision into a successful and accomplished team.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the UNM Undergraduate Mock Trial Team—Laura Worden, Cris Romero, Nicolas Cordova, Daniel Whiteley, Valeria Garcia, Danielle Harrier, Sarah Peterson, and Seth Barany—and wish them the best at the national competition.

**NORWOOD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
BASKETBALL TEAM**

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Norwood High School Mavericks girls' basketball team and their coach, Greg King, for winning this year's 1A State basketball championship title.

Their thrilling 38 to 34 victory over the Caliche High School Buffaloes marks only the second time in the school's history winning this prestigious athletic title. According to Coach King, this is a team that fights hard for every victory on the court and in the classroom. These talented young women exemplify the versatility and passion of our amazing student athletes, and will no doubt have bright futures.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to offer my sincere congratulations to Norwood for this year's exciting victory, and I commend Coach King and each member of the team for their sportsmanship and competitive spirit as they continue their bright academic and athletic careers.

**IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION
REGULATION**

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today, April 1st, marks the 30th anniversary of the effective date of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). The FAR replaced the Armed Services Procurement Regulation and the Federal Procurement Regulations. The principles of the FAR system have remained constant, providing a consistent government-wide approach to the rules and processes of contracting with the U.S. Government. The FAR has helped facilitate our ability to tap into the vast resources of the private sector in those instances when the work of the government can best be performed by outside entities.

The United States Federal government is one of the world's largest consumers of goods and services, with total procurement spending of approximately a half trillion dollars each year. We need to ensure that the government acquires goods and services in an efficient and streamlined fashion, while getting the best value for the American taxpayer.

Many have criticized the fashion in which the government acquires goods and services, particularly information technology, as cumbersome and inefficient. The FAR has evolved to provide broad flexibility to the government, while balancing the need to conduct business with integrity, fairness, and openness. Under the FAR, small businesses have grown into a critical business partner for the Federal government.

The FAR is the Federal regulation that most reflects a collaborative process. Unlike other Federal regulations, the FAR is not signed by one agency, but by three agencies—the General Services Administration, the Department of Defense, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—under the overall direction of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (in the Office of Management and Budget). They are supported by seventeen other civilian agencies and the small agency council. Together they continuously improve Federal acquisition, incorporating best practices from private industry while protecting taxpayer dollars from waste and abuse.

The FAR has its own authority for rule-making which streamlines the process but provides the opportunity for participation in the rulemaking process by both government users and the public. There have been notable collaborative rulemakings in the past, such as the implementation of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act of 1994, and I support the continued use of the FAR rulemaking process to provide robust exchanges between government and the public.

From the shortest FAR clause which reads “United States law will apply to resolve any claim of breach of this contract” to the longest one, the Government Property clause, which is over 5000 words long, the FAR is a flexible instrument designed to do the job.

More than 30 percent of the government's discretionary budget is dedicated to procurement—the grunt work of the government. It may not be glamorous, but it is what makes the government work. We acknowledge and support the FAR on its anniversary, but remain committed to streamlining and improving its operation and ensuring that acquisition professionals across the government have the tools, training, and support they need to properly use this critical tool.

While the FAR is by no means a perfect document, most countries in the world, whether developed or developing, study the FAR and borrow from it for their procurement system. More importantly, the hard working men and women of the acquisition workforce play a vital role in the policy that is developed for the FAR, and in making that policy work on a daily basis they strive to ensure that the taxpayers, in the end, get best value.

On behalf of those taxpayers, I direct my thanks to the acquisition workforce community for all you do to make our federal acquisition system work. Our system, while not perfect, is better than any alternative out there and something for you to be proud of—you make it work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 147, I was unable to attend.

Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

**HONORING CHAPLAIN BENJAMIN
VEGORS ON HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chaplain Benjamin Vegors, who is retiring after giving over 145 years of service to our nation's veterans. A dedicated servant, Chaplain Vegors spent countless hours counseling and caring for our veterans throughout the Pacific Northwest at the Jonathan N. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington.

A World War II veteran, Chaplain Vegors served in the Army Air Corp from 1942–1945, assigned to Europe as a tail gunner in B24 Liberator bombers flying 30 missions over Germany and Austria. When asked what called him to the ministry, Ben tells about one particular mission over Germany when two of the plane's outboard engines were shot out. With the plane out of formation and slowly losing altitude, the pilot had to make an emergency landing. With enemy soldiers in pursuit, Chaplain Vegors felt certain that they were all going to die—if they bailed out of the plane, they would be shot in the air but if they stayed in the plane, they were sure to go down. While sitting in his usual landing position, Chaplain Vegors made a midair commitment that if he survived, he would serve God for the rest of his life.

Following discharge from the military, Chaplain Vegors went back to school and then to Seminary at Multnomah Bible College in Portland, Oregon. His pastoral career began in Astoria, Oregon, followed by a ten-year post in Junction City, Oregon. Afterwards, he went to Walla Walla, where he met Jim Dennis, the Chaplain at the VA Hospital. Chaplain Dennis invited Ben to accompany him on his night calls to veterans. This led to an intermittent chaplaincy appointment with the VA and eventually to a part-time chaplaincy position.

In 1972, he was appointed as a full-time chaplain. After 42 years of service as Chaplain of the Jonathan N. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington, Chaplain Vegors is retiring. Knowing that he has made a difference in countless veterans' lives, Ben once said that he would serve 1,000 years if he could. As it is, he is the oldest Chaplain in the United States. A man of integrity and high principle, his humility and his impact on Eastern Washington's veterans and on his country will long be remembered.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chaplain Vegors for a lifetime of dedicated service.

PUEBLO EAST HIGH SCHOOL
MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pueblo East High School men's basketball team and their coach, Dave Ryder. In their third time in the State finals, the Pueblo East Eagles claimed their first Class 4A State basketball title. This was Coach Ryder's final year with the Eagles after teaching for 29 years and 10 years as head coach.

After an exciting and challenging game, the Eagles production in the half court helped them beat Denver South 58 to 51. In a thrilling back and forth between these two teams, Pueblo East's defense made the difference, allowing their opponent to only score two points in the final 2:41 of the game.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Pueblo East men's basketball team and their extraordinary coach, Dave Ryder. Under Coach Ryder's expert guidance, the team captured their first men's basketball championship in school history, and built a base that I have no doubt will win many more State titles to continue their legacy of success.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,554,275,708,064.70. We've added \$6,927,398,659,151.62 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING LLOYD MITCHELL

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Lloyd Mitchell for his many years of exemplary service to the state of Missouri. Lloyd retired on February 11, 2014 after more than 46 years of service to the Texas County Sheriff's department.

In 1968, at age 43, Lloyd began his career in law enforcement as Deputy Sheriff of Texas County. In 1994, he became a bailiff in Texas County and held this position up until his retirement. Over the course of his career, Lloyd developed a reputation for conducting his job with the utmost integrity. His professionalism has set a high standard of work ethics that will serve as an example for future generations of law enforcement professionals.

In addition to his many years of service to the sheriffs' department, Lloyd is a published

author and has served as a Deacon for his local Church. His dedication to serving Texas County has helped countless residents and it is my pleasure to recognize his efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives.

HONORING MITCHELL LIBMAN

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mitchell Libman of Hollywood, Florida, who for more than five decades worked to ensure a dear friend received the recognition he deserved for his heroism and sacrifice during the Korean War.

In 1951, Mr. Libman learned that his childhood friend, Private First Class Leonard Kravitz, lost his life during combat and received the Distinguished Service Cross for his service. After hearing about Private Kravitz's heroics from some of the soldiers who fought by his side in Korea, he was inspired to dig deeper into the circumstances of his death.

Mr. Libman found that his friend's service was indeed extraordinary. During an ambush of Communist forces, Private First Class Leonard Kravitz sacrificed his own life when he took over a machine gun so that his platoon could retreat to safety. It became clear that Private Kravitz's heroism qualified him for the Medal of Honor and yet he never received one. During his years of research, Mr. Libman began to suspect that Private Kravitz could have been bypassed for the Medal of Honor due to possible prejudice in the military against his Jewish heritage. He decided to take the issue to Washington.

As a result of Mr. Libman's heartfelt advocacy, Congress passed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2002 requiring the Pentagon to undergo a review and determine if Jewish and Hispanic Americans serving in our Armed Forces could have been overlooked for the Medal of Honor due to bias in the military.

The Pentagon's review did more than confirm that Private First Class Leonard Kravitz indeed fit the criteria for the Medal of Honor. It also revealed 23 additional cases of soldiers who went above and beyond the call of duty and yet never received the Medal of Honor for their extraordinary service. Last fall, I was pleased to pass H.R. 3304, an amended version of the National Defense Authorization Act ensuring that every soldier discovered during this review to be worthy of the Medal of Honor would finally be recognized.

On March 18, 2014, Mr. Libman's decades of work culminated in President Barack Obama awarding all 24 soldiers with the Medal of Honor. Seeing the President finally issue these long overdue awards should remind us all of the power every American citizen has to make a difference, and I am profoundly grateful for Mitchell Libman's years of determination and love of country.

RICHARD GOTTLIEB

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Richard Gottlieb, a World War II Veteran, who served his county as a B-24 gunner with the 15th Air Force, 55th Bomb Wing, of the 465th Bomb Group, 780th squadron stationed at Pantanella Air Base in Italy.

The 465th Bomb Group served as a strategic bombardment group on two different missions, bombing strategic points near Vienna, Austria, on July 8, 1944, and two steel plants at Friedrichshafen, Germany, on August 3, 1944. His group was given a Distinguished Unit Citation for carrying out their missions despite enemy anti-aircraft and fighter pilot fire.

Mr. Gottlieb was born in 1925, and spent most of his life in Brooklyn, New York. As a troop leader for the Boy Scouts of America, Mr. Gottlieb travelled by train through the State of Colorado to the Philmont Scout Ranch in Northern New Mexico, where he first saw and fell in love with the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, vowing to one day live there. In 1990, he moved to Ft. Garland, Colorado, and has been residing at the Colorado State Veterans Center at Homelake since 2006.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Richard Gottlieb for his service to our country during WWII and for the contributions he made to preserve our freedom.

RECOGNIZING PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT
OF COMMUNITY AWARD RECIPIENT
JESSIE SWOFFORD FOR HER
COMMITMENT AND SERVICE TO
WASHINGTON STATE

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Ms. Jessie Swofford of Tacoma has just been named one of the top honorees in Washington by the 2014 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers across the country.

Jessie is being recognized for helping improve the lives of children with autism and their families through volunteering with Families for Effective Autism Treatment (FEAT). Each month Jessie volunteers at FEAT's "Super Saturdays", where she organizes games and activities for children with autism. Jessie also mentors teenagers with autism and spends her summers volunteering with an intensive intervention program for youth with autism.

Jessie herself battled a digestive disorder and a botched surgery as an infant, and dyslexia growing up, all of which she has overcome. Today she is enrolled in advanced placement and honors courses, and she is discovering her passion to become a speech pathologist.

Given the challenges we face today, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind

of selfless contributions that these young citizens have made. Young volunteers like Jessie are inspiring examples to all of us and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued—and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 19 years, the program has become the Nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Jessie should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud Jessie for seeking to make her community a better place to live and for working to positively impact the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world. Jessie's actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
GLORIA MOLINA

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gloria Molina, who is retiring at the end of this year, after an impressive 40-year career as a public servant in the State of California.

On the occasion of Ms. Molina's retirement from public office, we wish to extend to her sincere congratulations for the decades of dedicated service that she has given to her nation, her State, her City, and her County, most recently as member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, where she has served with distinction as the First Supervisorial District Supervisor since 1991.

Through the Chicano Power Movement, the Women's Movement, and the national movement against the Vietnam War during the 1960s and 1970s, Ms. Molina's interest was awakened to civic affairs. She was the first chief deputy for California State Assemblyman Art Torres in 1974 and later for the renowned California State Assembly Speaker Willie Brown. Ms. Molina also served in the Carter White House as well as the San Francisco Department of Health and Human Services.

Ms. Molina was first elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1991, the first Latina ever elected to the Board, representing the First District, where she is currently serving her fifth term. During this time, she also has served five times as Chair of the Board. Ms. Molina's tenure has produced dramatic results both because she has insisted that County services be streamlined for maximum effectiveness and because she has brought to fruition major capital endeavors that improve County residents' quality-of-life.

Prior to representing the First Supervisorial District, Ms. Molina was elected to the California State Assembly in 1982 and the Los Angeles City Council in 1987. Both times, she was the first Latina to earn this honor. Her triumphant leadership in the 1980s against the construction of a state prison in East Los Angeles is legendary, and it solidified her reputation—whether functioning on a local or a national level—as both a fighter and groundbreaker able to achieve victory despite seemingly insurmountable odds.

Named as one of the Democratic Party's "10 Rising Stars" by TIME magazine in 1996, Ms. Molina served as one of four vice chairs of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) from 1996 through 2004. During the 2000 Presidential Election, Ms. Molina was one of 15 top women leaders nationwide to be named as a possible vice-presidential candidate by the White House Project—a non-profit, non-partisan group dedicated to raising awareness of women's leadership in American politics.

On behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives, the State of California, and the County of Los Angeles, I want to thank Gloria Molina for sharing her tremendous talents with us for so many years. We extend our gratitude to her for her remarkable contributions in public service throughout her illustrious career. With sincere best wishes, we congratulate Ms. Molina upon her retirement from elective office. We are pleased to join her many co-workers, family, friends, and associates in wishing her health, happiness, and continued good fortune in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CAMBODIAN DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, this April marks the 39th anniversary of the Khmer Rouge regime's rise to power in Cambodia and the tragedies that followed. I join Cambodian Americans to commemorate this tragedy in the community's past. Yet even as we solemnly recognize this moment, we can also look at the hopeful future that lies ahead for the Cambodian American community.

The Khmer Rouge regime seized power in Cambodia on April 17, 1975 and began a reign of terror and systematic genocide. Upwards of 3.4 million innocent men, women, and children lost their lives at mass grave sites now known as the Killing Fields. Thousands of refugees escaped these atrocities and were given sanctuary in the United States; many came to the State of Illinois.

Thanks to the Cambodian Association of Illinois and our strong Cambodian American community here in the United States, we are aware of the Cambodian genocide and its devastating effects. Organizations such as the Cambodian American Heritage Museum and the Killing Field Memorial carry out the vital mission of ensuring that we do not forget the atrocities of this period. The Cambodian community is committed to remembering and paying tribute to those lost in the Killing Fields while enhancing the public's awareness of these atrocities and supporting the survivors and their families.

As Illinois and other States recognize April 17th as the Cambodian Day of Remembrance, I rise today to join my Cambodian American friends to commemorate the atrocities of the Killing Fields and to provide comfort and hope to the victims' families. Let us take this moment to recognize that group-targeted violence and intolerance still exist in nations across the world, and we cannot ignore its presence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in solidarity with the Cambodian American community in remembering those who were lost to the Khmer Rouge regime and in recognizing our hope for a more peaceful future.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF LIBBY AND ROBIN
MAYNARD

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize Libby and Robin Maynard. Libby Maynard was a leader among women through her personal life, her career, and her fight with breast cancer. A Florida native, born in Lakeland in 1943, Libby grew up active in her church and school music programs. Libby attended college in Georgia, where she majored in music and was selected for the Who's Who Among American College Students. While in college, Libby began her journey as a missionary. Her service led her to New York City where she worked directly with teenage gang members and was a minister of music at local churches. During her time in New York, she met and married Reverend Herb Maynard with whom she had two daughters.

Libby moved home to Lakeland in 1979 to care for her mother, who was diagnosed with breast cancer for a second time. After her mom's passing, she spent some time in North Carolina, before returning to Florida again to care for her aging father. Having been touched by cancer personally, she began volunteering and then working for the American Cancer Society.

Libby was passionate and dedicated. She loved helping people throughout her life. In January 2005, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She began her journey with cancer with the same boundless energy, determination, and amazing strength that she applied to every challenge in her life. Due to the demands of her cancer treatments, Libby lost her job and, as a result, her health insurance. Despite her own difficulties, she continued to be a positive light and to help those around her.

Twelve months after her diagnosis, Libby "won her trip to heaven" after the cancer suddenly returned. Libby left this world with dignity and grace. She left behind a legacy of hope that her daughter Robin carries on in her name.

Robin Maynard, following her mom's beautiful example, is a leader among women in Central Florida. After losing her mother to breast cancer in 2006, Robin saw firsthand the difficulties faced by uninsured women in Florida. In 2007, she founded Libby's Legacy Breast Cancer Foundation (LLBCF). The Foundation provides lifesaving breast health services to the uninsured and underinsured

women of Central Florida and its health care advocates fight to get patients the treatment they need when diagnosed.

In 2009, Robin left her successful career as an Orange County Crime Scene Investigator to work full time at LLBCF, where she fights daily for her patients to receive the treatment they need and deserve. Since it opened its doors, LLBCF has provided over 4,000 breast health services and diagnosed more than 65 cases of breast cancer. Today, 114 children still have their mothers because of Robin's tireless efforts after losing her own mother. Through their leadership and legacy, Libby and Robin continue to save lives.

I am happy to honor Libby and Robin Maynard, during Women's History Month, for their service and contributions to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND
COMMITMENT OF THE GRAYS
HARBOR COMMUNITY FOUNDA-
TION TO GRAYS HARBOR COUN-
TY IN WASHINGTON STATE

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Grays Harbor Community Foundation, which has provided unwavering support to the greater Grays Harbor County community.

The Grays Harbor Community Foundation was established in 1994 to partner with residents to make investments in the future of our region. Through scholarships, grants, partnerships, and support for the arts, the Foundation has inspired long-term philanthropy and community investment.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to highlight a few of the many accomplishments of the Foundation. In 2012, the Foundation launched the Technology Initiative and provided grants to five school districts that gave them the resources to integrate innovative learning tools into the classroom and increase student engagement and achievement. I applaud their efforts. We know that it is critical to make investments in school technology so that all students have access to critical tools they need to remain competitive in today's increasingly technology-dependent world.

I commend the Foundation's scholarship program, which supports students' aspirations of pursuing education beyond high school. Education is the door to opportunity and for a lot of families—including mine—financial aid is the key to that door. This Foundation has done exemplary work partnering with students to help them open that door.

Mr. Speaker, the Foundation also partners with an array of excellent local organizations to build art installations, provide safe places for kids to learn and play, fund afterschool programs, help families cover unexpected expenses, and provide access to legal resources. I applaud their work in meeting community needs and making Grays Harbor a better, more vibrant place to live.

I am happy to join in the celebration of the Foundation's 20th year. As I close, it is only appropriate to acknowledge the work of Exec-

utive Director Jim Daly, Finance and Accounting Officer Jim George, Program Officer Cassie Lentz, Office Manager Cari Jewell, and the Foundation's Board of Directors for their ongoing support of the Grays Harbor Community Foundation. It is my sincere pleasure to recognize their outstanding service today in the United States Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONOR-
ABLE LOUIS A. BECKER'S EX-
TRAORDINARY WORK AS A
JUDGE

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise before you today to recognize the efforts of a truly significant individual in the judicial field. Not only is it a privilege to know Judge Louis A. Becker, but also to call Judge Becker a friend. Our lives had some remarkable commonalities. We both worked as a lifeguard in Ocean City, Maryland. We both played lacrosse during our school years and graduated from the University of Baltimore's Law School. Finally, we both worked for our Nation's Intelligence communities during our long careers in public service.

The Honorable Louis A. Becker was appointed by Governor Ehrlich as an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court for Howard County in July 2005, after having been appointed by Governor Schaefer to the District Court of Maryland for Howard County in 1989. On occasion, he has been specially assigned to Maryland's 2nd highest appellate bench, the Court of Special Appeals. Thus, he has adjudicated thousands of bench and jury trials involving major felonies and complex civil cases and authored several appellate opinions.

He is a graduate of Loyola University, B.S., Political Science, 1965 and the University of Baltimore School of Law, J.D., 1970. Having served on active duty and the Reserves from 1965 to 1994, he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Intelligence.

Prior to the bench he practiced law with emphasis in the areas of criminal law, real property, corporate, computer, and professional malpractice. He was formerly a member of the Board of Governors of the Maryland State Bar Association and served on its Ethics & Judicial Selection Committees, and Solo/Small Firm Practice Section Council. As Chair of the latter in 1999–2000, he received the American Bar Association Solo/Small Firm Bar Leader of the Year Award. He is a Fellow of the Maryland and Howard Bar Foundations. He is Past President of the Howard County Bar Association and he is currently serving a second term as President of the James Macgill American Inns of Court; an organization dedicated to promoting judicial and legal excellence. He served on the Maryland Attorney Grievance Commission from 1975 to 1980.

Judge Becker has written and lectured on search and seizure law as well as lawyer and judicial ethics for the Maryland Judicial Institute, the New Trial Judges Orientation Course and the Maryland Institute for Continuing Professional Education of Lawyers (MICPEL). Having taught Professional Responsibility, he

is currently teaching Trial Advocacy at the University of Baltimore Law School where he was awarded Adjunct Professor of the Year in 2003, and has been a member of the Dean's Advisory Council since 1994.

As a judicial leader, he was the founder of the first Drug/DUI Treatment Court in Howard County. Over the years his community involvement has included service on the Board of Trustees of the Howard County Library, the Howard County Executive's Mental Health Services Restructuring Task Force and the County Youth Lacrosse Program.

His wife of 46 years, Shawn, a Registered Nurse who holds a Master's Degree in Nursing Policy, is Senior Director of Patient Safety, US Pharmacopeia (USP). He has two grown sons; one of whom is a commercial banker and the other a construction project manager, and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see from this incredible list of accomplishments, Judge Louis A. Becker has had a distinguished career as an attorney and a judge for the State of Maryland. He has served our country with distinction. I ask that you join with me today to applaud the tremendous work he has done for our courts and our community as he enters retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE 35TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELA-
TIONS ACT

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the passage and signing of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) on April 10, 1979. I would also like to congratulate and welcome Mr. Lyushun Shen as the incoming Representative for Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) in the United States.

The TRA has molded our relations with Taiwan and has provided the backbone for a productive and constructive partnership between our two countries.

The ability of the people of Taiwan to defend themselves has been the hallmark of the TRA's success and has led to a sustained peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, as well as in the Western Pacific. In an ever evolving geo-political environment, we must recognize the continuing importance of Taiwan's self-defense needs going forward to ensure that peace continues to prevail.

In addition, with our commitment to Taiwan under the TRA, Taiwan has developed into a democracy with a flourishing economy and free market system. In 2012, the bilateral trade volume reached \$63 billion, making Taiwan the United States' 11th largest trading partner. Taiwan's commitment to free market principles, demonstrative economic power, and role as a global supply chain hub make it an important partner in international trade.

The security and stability in the region, along with Taiwan's commitment to free market policies, have resulted in unprecedented economic growth. Taiwan's commitment and participation in international free trade should not only be lauded, but should be bolstered around the globe. I look forward to Taiwan's

continued growth as a trade partner and celebrate its relationship with the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 148, I was unable to attend.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

ON THE OCCASION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF LOCAL 636 OF THE UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate the members and leadership of the Steamfitters, Pipefitters, Refrigeration and Air Condition Service Local Union 636 as they gather to celebrate their local's centennial and recognize them for their many important accomplishments.

As the Detroit chapter of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry (UA), Local 636 and its members are part of an organization with a rich history that has supported our country in moments of crisis. As key participants in the Public Works Administration and Works Progress Administration during the New Deal, members of the UA put their skills and experience to work for the revitalization of our Nation—constructing many roads, dams, schools, libraries, and other public buildings that are a testament to the ingenuity of American workers. Furthermore, as citizens across the United States rose to answer the call to serve our Nation during WWII, members of the UA entered our Armed Forces and went to work in the Arsenal of Democracy—constructing equipment that was vital to our Nation's success. As a community that was central to industrial innovation and output during WWII and the decades that have come since then, the members of Local 636 in the greater Detroit area have a unique and strong bond to these significant moments in our history.

With the mission of promoting the building trade professions through supporting high standards of excellence, the members of Local 636 are engaged in work that impacts the quality of our lives at home, at work, and in our leisure time. These high standards include a strong commitment to the ongoing education of its members, which Local 636 supports with a three-acre training center where its members can receive practical hands-on training for a number of disciplines including steam and hydronic heating systems, building automation systems, and industrial controls. Furthermore, through its programs, Local 636's education center provides members with cer-

tifications in pipefitting mastery, industrial process control calibration, EPA refrigerant recovery, orbital welding, and for many other practical applications. The end result is an educated workforce that is well positioned to capitalize on advancements in technology and thereby, able to serve the changing needs of the greater Detroit region.

Mr. Speaker, in the past one-hundred years, the members of trade unions have been at the center of so many advancements in the workplace, in the pursuit of social justice, and in improving the quality of education. Many of the protections and rights that we enjoy in today's workplace are a result of their decades of struggle and dedication. Local 636 of the UA has a proud history that includes these valiant pursuits and as their members gather to celebrate and reflect upon their achievements over the last 100 years, I congratulate them on the impact they have made and the commitment they continue to embrace in support of their members and Michigan's middle-class families.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DR. FRANK KITAMOTO

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Frank Kitamoto, and offer my condolences to his family and friends in light of his passing. As President of the Bainbridge Island Japanese Community for over 25 years, Dr. Kitamoto has helped thousands of people learn about Japanese American incarceration during World War II. His leadership and mentorship has impacted the Bainbridge Island community for years to come.

At the age of two, Dr. Kitamoto and his family were among the 277 Bainbridge Island residents forced from their homes and taken to Manzanar War Relocation Center in California, as directed by Executive Order 9066 and Civilian Exclusion Order No. 1. Later, his family was transferred to the Minidoka War Relocation Center in Idaho. They were the first required to leave their homes. In total, 12,000 Japanese American Washingtonians were forced out of their homes for the duration of the war. After World War II he returned to Bainbridge Island and served as a dentist for the community.

It was important to Dr. Kitamoto that people remember and students learn about Japanese American history and forced relocation during WWII. In 1983, he began an oral history project of Japanese American culture and internment so that people could listen to their compelling and heartfelt stories. Dr. Kitamoto visited classrooms in Washington State and traveled around the country to share these stories and talk about the Japanese American experience during WWII.

Dr. Kitamoto played an integral role in the installation of the Japanese American Exclusion Memorial on Bainbridge Island. He has been honored by the Bainbridge Island Arts and Humanities Council with the Island Treasure Award and the Kitsap Human Rights Commission bestowed the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, our nation owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. Kitamoto for his commitment to

human rights and dedication to ensuring that the stories of this difficult period in American history are told. While Dr. Kitamoto was greatly missed at the 72nd anniversary commemoration of the forced removal of Bainbridge Island Japanese Americans, his memory and great work will never be forgotten. I am pleased to recognize his service to the community and honor his legacy today in the United States Congress.

RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT ALBERT J. BAGOS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Albert J. Bagos who is retiring after more than 29 years of law enforcement service to the City of Fairfield.

After volunteering for over four years as a Cadet with the Fairfield Police Department, he was hired as a Police Officer on January 7, 1985. As an officer, he worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Investigations, Special Operations, Crime Suppression, and Field Training. Lieutenant Bagos joined the Special Activity Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Team in 1988 and was promoted to Police Corporal on December 31, 1999.

On June 30, 2000, Lieutenant Bagos was promoted to Police Sergeant and supervised Patrol and Traffic teams before being promoted to Police Lieutenant on February 4, 2005. He also earned an Exceptional Performance Citation in 2005 for managing FPD personnel and ensuring the successful production of the television show "Extreme Makeover-Home Edition" that was filming in Fairfield and would ultimately have national exposure. Additionally, Lieutenant Bagos' knowledge and extensive experience in street level operations led to his appointment as SWAT Commander on May 1, 2006.

Lieutenant Bagos' commitment to the community was evidenced by his positive, can-do attitude and handling of potentially dangerous situations on a daily basis. He is commended for his hard work and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, we are truly honored to pay tribute to our friend and dedicated public servant Lieutenant Albert J. Bagos. I ask our colleagues to join with us in thanking Mr. Bagos for his long and dedicated service to the City of Fairfield and wishing him continued success in all his future endeavors along with a happy retirement.

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in anticipation of Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week, which will be observed this year between April 7th and the 11th.

For more than 25 years, Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week has been observed as a show of support and appreciation for our nation's graduate and professional

students. Its sponsor, the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students, hosts events across the U.S.A. each year in April to educate the public about the importance and impact that graduate and professional students have on their communities and our country.

Our nation's graduate and professional students play several important roles in our society. For starters, they teach undergraduate students at many colleges and universities across the country. In addition, they play an often unsung role in our nation's academic research efforts, working away in laboratories and libraries on cutting edge research. Finally, of course, once they graduate and receive their graduate or professional degrees, they go on to careers in science, education, law, medicine, and other fields that are essential to improving our quality of life and promoting economic growth. The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students represents more than 600,000 graduate and professional students at over 90 institutions across the United States, including a number in Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District.

More than 15,000 graduate and professional students are enrolled in the nine institutions of higher education in and around the City of Pittsburgh: Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Chatham University, Robert Morris University, Carlow University, Point Park University, La Roche College, and the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

The graduate programs offered by these institutions and the high caliber of students they attract have a tremendous impact on our local civic life and economy, not only while they are studying, but often because they remain in the region. Graduate students teach undergraduates, lead innovative research projects, and start companies that attract bigger companies to the region like Google, Yahoo, Disney and many others.

Pittsburgh owes much of its recent economic growth to the world class research being done at our local colleges and universities. I think it's safe to say that the same is true across the country at institutions of higher learning where graduate and professional students are working in collaboration with talented faculty members to expand the boundaries of human knowledge and improve Americans' quality of life.

That's why I think it's particularly important to recognize our nation's graduate and professional students each year. I urge my colleagues to join me in observing Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week this year.

**MEDIA DOES NOT TELL THE
WHOLE STORY ON OBAMACARE
DELAY**

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today may be April Fools' Day, but Americans are not fooled about the damaging effects of Obamacare.

Millions of Americans continue to receive notice that their health insurance plans are being cancelled, while others see their premiums going up.

The Administration has waived or delayed more than 30 provisions of the law. When will they realize the law just will not work?

Articles in the Washington Post and the New York Times tried to cover for the Administration. One headline read, "U.S. to extend sign-up period for insurance." The other headline states that the Administration is going to "allow more time to enroll in health care."

What these articles fail to mention is that just two weeks earlier, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius testified before Congress that the deadline was not going to be extended.

Also, it's been over 130 days since ABC's Nightline focused on Obamacare and the problems with the law.

The national media should give the American people the facts, not tell them what to think. Only when they have all the facts can Americans make good decisions.

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, 35 years ago next week, on April 10, 1979, the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) codified America's commitment to our democratic ally Taiwan. Since then, this watershed legislation has served as an anchor for peace and security in the Western Pacific region and the cornerstone of close defense, economic, and cultural relations between our peoples. The TRA serves the interests of both of our nations by fostering United States power in the Pacific and allowing the people of Taiwan to sustain a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous way of life by mandating the availability of necessary U.S. defense articles and materials to enable a sufficient Taiwanese self-defense capability to counter Chinese aggression.

In 1979, there was much consternation in Washington that American security and economic interests in Taiwan would be neglected by President Carter's unjust decision to recognize the People's Republic of China and derecognize the Republic of China (Taiwan). The TRA was enacted to address these concerns and its guidelines now govern, in the absence of diplomatic relations, nearly every facet of U.S. relations with Taiwan. In the face of a hostile military posture by China, the new law helped level the defense capabilities across the Strait so that Taiwan's future could be determined by peaceful means.

China's rapidly increasing defense budget and provocations in the East and South China Seas are evidence of China's regional hegemonic ambitions. In order to counter and preserve the Taiwanese people's ability to determine their own future, we must reaffirm, clarify, and strengthen relations with our democratic ally and friend Taiwan. That is why I was proud to introduce, with my colleagues, the co-chairs of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, Representatives MARIO DIAZ-BALART, JOHN CARTER, ALBIO SIREs, GERALD CONNOLLY, the Taiwan Policy Act (TPA), which seeks to accomplish these goals.

If enacted, the TPA would codify that it is U.S. policy to support the people of Taiwan,

their democracy and human rights, and that Taiwan's future must be determined peacefully and with the Taiwanese people's assent. The bill would reaffirm the continuation of long-standing policies established within the TRA and by the Six Assurances of 1982. It would strengthen our ally's ability to defend itself against Chinese aggression by advancing the sale or transfer of necessary defense articles like F-16 C/D fighter aircraft, *Perry* class guided missile frigates, as well as other air and air defense, maritime, and ground capabilities. It would help Taiwan build its capacity to partner with other friendly foreign militaries in matters of intelligence, communications, and training and further economic ties by promoting bilateral investment and tax agreements with the ultimate goal of a Free Trade Agreement. The TPA would also encourage visits by cabinet-level and other high-level officials and support meaningful participation in international organizations like the World Health Assembly, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and United Nations entities.

The TRA serves as an enduring reminder of the extent to which Taiwan and the United States share a common commitment to freedom and a government elected by the people and for the people. As we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the TRA, there is no better time to recommit to the people of Taiwan and reaffirm that the United States will ensure the flame of liberty continues to burn brightly in the face of Chinese aggression.

HONORING VACAVILLE HIGH SCHOOL'S WRESTLING PROGRAM

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the legacy of Vacaville High School's Wrestling Program.

Under, Larry Nelsen, who served as the Head Coach from 1961–1993, the Vacaville Bulldogs procured 26 League Team Titles, 160 Individual League Champions, 15 Northwest Team Sub Section Championships, 77 Individual Sub Section Champions, 6 Sac Joaquin Team Section Championships, 28 Individual Section Champions, 5 Sac Joaquin Section Dual Championships, 2 CIF State Champions, 28 CIF State Place Winners, and 2 CIF Team Place Winners.

Under, Dave Nelsen, who served as the Head Coach from 1994–2000, the Vacaville Bulldogs procured 6 League Team Titles, 35 Individual League Champions, 6 Northwest Team Sub Section Championships, 27 Individual Sub Section Champions, 4 Sac Joaquin Section Dual Championships, 5 Individual Section Champions, 2 CIF State Champions, and 9 CIF State Place Winners.

Under, Richard Penaluna, who served as the Head Coach from 2001–2005, the Vacaville Bulldogs procured 5 League Team Championships, 39 Individual League Champions, 5 Northwest Team Sub Section Championships, 26 Individual Sub Sections Champions, 4 Sac Joaquin Section Dual Championships, 3 Sac Joaquin Team Section Championships, 8 Individual Section Champions, 2 CIF State Champions, 19 CIF State Place Winners, and 1 CIF Team Place State Winners.

Under the current Head Coaches, Clint Birch and Adam Wight, who took over in 2006, the Vacaville Bulldogs have procured 9 League Team Championships, 97 Individual League Champions, 9 Divisional Section Championships, 46 Individual Divisional Section Champions, 7 Sac Joaquin Section Dual Championships, 7 Sac Joaquin Team Section Masters Championships, 20 Individual Maters Champions, 6 CIF State Champions, 25 CIF State Place Winners, and 7 CIF Team Place State Winner, of which all were in the top 10.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the impressive achievement of this fine school. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Vacaville High School's Wrestling Program.

HONORING RSVP VOLUNTEERS

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, today in the City of West, Texas, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, better known as RSVP, is being honored for their service. I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation for all help they have provided to our community.

RSVP has a rich history of giving back. As volunteers, their service adds to the well being and preserves the health of our community.

In the wake of the tragic fertilizer plant explosion in West, RSVP came to the aid of a community in need. Following the explosion, volunteers with the organization staffed the call center, food distribution headquarters, and the donations management center. Their leadership, experience, and support aided in providing relief to those affected and were a tremendous help throughout the recovery process of this disaster.

We are truly thankful that RSVP was able to organize and assist in such a quick and efficient manner, and we know that those affected by the explosion truly appreciate their efforts as well.

RSVP Volunteers do their part to add value to the world and work to leave it a better place. During a time in which our country faces tough challenges, it is encouraging to see that we still have strong groups like RSVP who work together to solve problems, and to pitch in to strengthen our communities and improve others' lives.

I am appreciative of the work that RSVP volunteers do and commend them for all of their hard work for our community.

God bless the continuing work of RSVP and God Bless the United States of America.

HONORING ROBERT HARBULA

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents who is truly an American hero.

Mr. Robert Harbula of West Mifflin, Pennsylvania, fought bravely as a U.S. Marine in the Korean War—including the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. Private First Class Harbula served

in G Company of the Third Battalion of the First Marine Regiment, part of the First Marine Division, in the Korean War. His unit was referred to initially as "George Company" and then, later, after Chosin Reservoir, as "Bloody George."

Private First Class Bob Harbula was assigned to the Marine unit guarding Camp David, the Presidential retreat, when he served as an usher for the Washington, DC, premiere of "Sands of Iwo Jima" in January of 1950. After seeing the movie, he decided that he ought to get a more dangerous posting, so he volunteered for a marine raider unit several months later. Soon thereafter, he ended up in Camp Pendleton as part of the 1st Marine Division—and in August 1950, he found himself on a troopship headed for Japan with the First Marines as one of the early reinforcements for the hard-pressed UN forces in Korea. Mr. Harbula was part of the machine gun squad attached to G Company's First Platoon.

Korea had been occupied for 35 years by Japan until the end of World War II, at which point it was partitioned at the 38th Parallel. South Korea was occupied and protected by US forces. North Korea was occupied by the Soviet Union. UN plans to hold elections and unify the country were rejected by the Soviets, and a communist dictatorship was established in the north.

On June 25, North Korean troops crossed the boundary separating North and South Korea, taking the ill-prepared South Korean Army by surprise and overwhelming it. Three days later, the North Korean army occupied Seoul, the South Korean capital. US troops from the Eighth Army based in Japan rushed to aid the South Koreans. They were thrown into battle piecemeal in a desperate effort to gain time for more reinforcements to arrive. South Korean troops and the US 24th Infantry Division fought the North Korean troops repeatedly, inflicting substantial casualties, but they were repeatedly defeated by superior numbers and forced to retreat. By August, US and South Korean forces had been pushed back to a fragile perimeter around the port city of Pusan in the southwest corner of the Korean peninsula. Despite repeated North Korean attacks, the Pusan Perimeter held and bled the North Koreans dry.

General Douglas MacArthur, commander of US forces in the region, decided to launch a major amphibious landing deep in the North Korean army's rear at the port city of Inchon on Korea's west coast. Mr. Harbula's unit was in the first wave of the assault craft, which landed under heavy fire on September 15th. From that moment on, George Company was in nearly constant combat as US forces captured Inchon and fought their way into Seoul, where the fighting often deteriorated into vicious house-to-house combat. On the night of September 25, George Company—heavily outnumbered—stopped a major North Korean counterattack by tanks, self-propelled artillery, and hundreds of men along Seoul's Ma Po Boulevard. Mr. Harbula and his section did what they could, firing a machine gun non-stop at the lead tank. With artillery support, George Company withstood and repelled the attack—but at a terrible cost.

The Inchon landing and the liberation of Seoul caused the weakened and over-extended North Korean forces in the south to collapse and beat a panicked retreat northward. The US Eighth Army began pressing

northward in aggressive pursuit along Korea's west coast. The X Corps, which included the 1st Marine Division, was pulled out of the line and loaded onto amphibious transport ships. They sailed around the Korean Peninsula and disembarked at the end of October in the port of Wonsan on North Korea's southeastern coast, which had already been secured by South Korean units.

George Company's first assignment after landing at Wonsan was holding a village called Majon-ni several miles inland at the junction of roads leading to Seoul, Wonsan, and Pyongyang. On November 2nd, PFC Harbula's machine gun squad was helping to escort a re-supply convoy through a treacherous mountain gorge when it was ambushed. Bob Harbula provided cover, firing a .30 caliber machine gun from the hip, while the surviving trucks were carefully turned around on the one-lane, cliff-edged road and driven out of the ambush to Wonsan, where they reported to headquarters and requested a rescue mission for the remaining survivors.

George Company garrisoned Majon-ni for several weeks after the ambush. PFC Harbula took command of his 10-man machine gun squad after the sergeant who had been in charge was seriously wounded in the ambush. On November 14, George Company moved north to the Hungnam-Chiguyong region.

The rugged Taebaek Mountains that ran up the middle of the Korean peninsula divided the Eighth Army from X Corps as each force pushed north. On November 24, MacArthur ordered the "Home by Christmas" offensive to conquer all of North Korea up to the Yalu River, which formed the boundary between North Korea and China. The Eighth Army was to push north, while the First Marine Division was to push west from the Chosin Reservoir, cut off a North Korean major supply line, and link up with the Eighth Army.

Unbeknownst to General MacArthur and his advisors, hundreds of thousands of Chinese troops had begun infiltrating into North Korea in mid-October. The General and his staff thought that there were only a few small Chinese units fighting in North Korea. In fact, Chinese troops were massing for attacks in both the east and west. In the east, the 9th Army Group of the Chinese "People's Volunteer Army" had encircled most of the Chosin Reservoir, a large man-made lake north of Wonsan and 65 miles northwest of the port city of Hungnam.

On November 25, nearly two hundred thousand Chinese troops launched a surprise attack on the Eighth Army, defeating it resoundingly in the Battle of the Ch'ongch'on River and sending it retreating southward in what came to be called "the Big Bug-out."

On November 27, however, the First Marine Division's orders were still to attack northwestward. Most of the Division's combat troops, primarily thousands of Marines from the First Marine Division's 5th and 7th Regiments, were positioned around the village of Yudam-ni west of the reservoir. An understrength regimental combat team from the 7th Infantry Division held territory on the east side of the reservoir up through the village of Hundong-ni to Sinhung-ni. A winding narrow road led through the mountainous terrain from each village to the bottom of the lake, where they met in the village of Hagaru-ri, which was lightly defended by a hodgepodge of units from the First Marine Division, including a

number of companies from George Company's First Marine Regiment. Essential supplies had been stockpiled at Hagaru-ri, and engineers were desperately trying to build a small airstrip when they weren't fighting off enemy attacks.

It was 14 miles of treacherous terrain from Yudam-ni to Hagaru-ni. From there, the road wound 11 miles through more mountainous terrain to the town of Koto-ri, where the 1st Marine Regiment's headquarters was located—defended by the Regiment's Second Battalion—and then another 10 miles to Chinhung-ni, defended by First Battalion, First Marine Regiment. From there, it was another 37 miles to the port city of Hungnam. That one narrow road was the only way First Marine Division and the other units from X Corps could get out of the mountains and back to the coast.

Meanwhile, George Company was stuck somewhere in the rear echelons for lack of transportation.

On the night of November 27, all hell broke loose. The 9th Army Group of the People's Volunteer Army attacked the X Corps forces on either side of the Chosin Reservoir and at various points along the road as far south as Koto-ri. Tens of thousands of Chinese soldiers attacked the Marines. The Marines at Yudam-ni were surrounded and cut off, as were the soldiers of the 7th Infantry's Regimental Combat Team 31 on the east side of the reservoir—and the Divisional headquarters and elements of the 1st Marine Regiment at Hagaru-ri.

On the morning of November 28, George Company finally got some wheels. They were ordered into trucks and headed north, arriving in Koto-ri at nightfall.

That night, the Chinese launched a massive attack on Hagaru-ri. They almost succeeded in overwhelming the outnumbered Marines, who had thrown every able-bodied man who could fire a rifle into the front line—down to, and including, the cooks and truck drivers. When dawn came, the defenses had held, but Chinese forces occupied the strategic high ground—East Hill—and unless reinforcements arrived, it seemed inevitable that Hagaru-ri would fall and the units around the Chosin Reservoir would be doomed.

George Company's 200 men formed part of the 900-man "Task Force Drysdale" that was rapidly thrown together on the morning of November 29th in Koto-ri to reinforce Hagaru-ri. It took the column all day to fight their way up the 11 miles of road between Koto-ri and Hagaru-ri. They had to stop repeatedly to clear enemy roadblocks, and they were under fire the whole time from thousands of Chinese soldiers dug in on either side of the road. The route was subsequently given the name "Hell Fire Valley."

Late in the day, the rear of the convoy was stopped by a burning truck and surrounded by Chinese troops. Fighting through the night until their ammunition was nearly all gone, the surviving soldiers finally had no choice but to surrender.

The front of the column, consisting of the surviving tanks, George Company, and some of the Royal Marines pushed on and finally broke through to Hagaru-ri. Only a third of the men who set out that morning in Task Force Drysdale made it to Hagaru-ri, but the 300 soldiers and the tanks that made it through Hell Fire Valley at such a terrible cost significantly bolstered the town's defenses.

The next morning, November 30, George Company was given the daunting mission of retaking East Hill. They slowly advanced up the hill, slipping and falling repeatedly on the ice and taking heavy rifle and machine gun fire. By the end of the day, they held the south end of the ridge, but the Chinese still held the center. George Company dug in as best they could, but the temperature at night dropped past -20 degrees and the ground was frozen hard. Private Harbula was forced to resort to piling dead Chinese soldiers around his machine gun like sand bags.

Once it was dark, Chinese forces counter-attacked, charging down the hill several thousand strong. The men of George Company fought bravely—eventually hand-to-hand. Private Harbula's machine gun jammed, and his position was overrun by the enemy. An officer ordered the men to pull back. He remembers hitting one Chinese soldier in the face with his helmet and firing his pistol at several others. As he slipped and slid back down the hill, he fell into a shell crater. In the crater, he found several dead Americans and one of his comrades, Richard Haller, still alive but wounded in both legs. Private Harbula carried Haller down the hill to safety, but he ruptured his Achilles tendon in the process. Private Harbula was out of the fight, but the surviving members of George Company fought on. Finally, near dawn on December 1st, the Chinese attack petered out.

December 1st was something of a turning point. That day, the Marines in Yudam-ni began a break-out to the south. By nightfall, they had fought their way to Toktong Pass, halfway to Hagaru-ri. In addition, the engineers who had been working on the airstrip completed enough of the runway that C-47 transport planes could use it. That afternoon, planes started bringing in supplies and reinforcements and flying out the wounded.

There was bad news on December 1st as well. With half of the men in Regimental Combat Team 31 dead or wounded, its commander, Lieutenant Colonel Don Faith, ordered his troops to destroy any equipment they couldn't carry and attempt to break through to Hagaru-ri. As the column advanced, it was attacked constantly by thousands of Chinese soldiers on each side of the road to Hagaru-ri. As night fell, Lieutenant Faith was killed trying to take a roadblock and the column disintegrated. Many small groups of soldiers fled through the night and made it to the Hagaru-ri perimeter alive, but everyone who stayed with the convoy was killed.

Most of the First Division was now reunited in Hagaru-ri. The remaining able-bodied but exhausted members of George Company continued to defend the perimeter, moving to one end of the runway on December 5th and repulsing another large Chinese attack.

On December 6, the First Marine Division began its breakout effort—or as its commanding officer General O.P. Smith put it, not so much retreating as attacking in a different direction. George Company fought its way back down Hell Fire Valley—but this time as part of a unit powerful enough to defend itself. They reached Koto-ri by the end of the next day. The retreat continued the following day with the 5th and 7th Regiments pushing ahead and the 1st Regiment and George Company acting as a rear guard. Finally, reached the port of Hungnam, where an armada of ships evacuated a quarter of a million soldiers and civilians, as well as a great deal of equipment.

The "advance in a different direction" by the "Chosin Few" has become a legendary example of heroism, sacrifice, endurance, and suffering. Thousands of American soldiers rebuffed surprise attacks by overwhelming numbers of enemy forces and then conducted a 70-mile fighting retreat through treacherous mountain terrain in subfreezing weather.

George Company, now "Bloody George," did their part, fighting their way into Hagaru-ri, up East Hill, and then—outnumbered 10 to 1—holding their perimeter against determined enemy counterattack. Private First Class Bob Harbula served bravely in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir until he was injured.

Remarkably, several months later, Bob's brother, John, who was a Marine stationed in Norfolk, saw a Marine on crutches hitchhiking. John picked him up and they got to talking, and the Marine mentioned that he was at the Chosin Reservoir with G-3-1. John told his passenger that he had a brother who had also fought there with G-3-1. The hitchhiker asked John what his brother's name was, and when John told him that it was Bob Harbula, the Marine's face turned white and he said, "that's the SOB that saved my life!" John had given a lift to Richard Haller!

Chosin Reservoir didn't mark the end of Bloody George's or Bob Harbula's combat action in Korea by any means. Soon after, he was back in combat. On April 15, 1951, he was promoted to Corporal and put in charge of 2 machineguns and 20 men at the start of Operation Ripper. He fought again with G Company in North Korea at the Hwachon Reservoir, where the First Marine Division was awarded its third Presidential Unit Citation for action on Hill 902. He was finally rotated home on 6 June 1951.

Mr. Harbula was recently quoted in the *McKeesport Daily News* as saying, "I don't consider myself a hero." Well, I think it's safe to say that the rest of us do. I am grateful to U.S. Marine Corporal Robert Harbula for his heroic service to our country, and I am very proud to represent him in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Harbula may not consider himself a hero, but he believes deeply that his comrades in George Company, especially those who gave their lives for this country, are heroes who never got the recognition they deserved. He has endeavored in recent years to educate the American public about the critical role George Company played in reinforcing and defending Hagaru-ri and holding it until the 5th and 7th Marine Regiments could reach it and the First Marine Division could carry out its legendary fighting withdrawal.

That may finally be happening some 60-some years after the fact. In 2010, a writer named Patrick K. O'Donnell published "Give Me Tomorrow: The Korean War's Greatest Untold Story—the Epic Stand of the Marines of George Company." The book is based on extensive interviews with the surviving members of G Company. In addition, earlier this week, the story of George Company's actions in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir was the subject of an episode of "Against All Odds"—a six-part series about battlefield heroism on the American Heroes Channel—which until recently was known as the Military Channel.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans can be proud of the fact that in the course of our nation's history, there have been many inspiring, often heartbreaking stories of heroes who have

given their lives for this country. There are many, many more Americans who have served this country who have risked their lives for this country. Many have come home wounded and disabled. We owe them all a debt we can never begin to repay. It's my belief, though, that we should remember them and honor them as best we can for what they've done. That's why, when I learned about Bob Harbula and George Company's service in the Korean War, I felt it was only right that I share their story with you and have it included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. Harbula has spent much of his life trying to call attention to his brothers in arms—the Chosin Few—so I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the bravery and tremendous sacrifices of Bob Harbula and the men of Company G, Third Battalion, First Marine Regiment for their heroic service in the Korean War. God bless them, and God bless everyone who serves or has served our nation in its armed forces.

RETIREMENT OF OFFICE
SPECIALIST DEBBIE D. WOLD

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Office Specialist Debbie D. Wold who is retiring after nearly 25 years of service to the City of Fairfield.

Debbie was hired on August 21, 1989, as a Public Service Clerk for the Investigations Bureau. In 1992, she was reclassified to Transcriber and received a Department Commendation for her outstanding ability to completely and accurately transcribe complex police reports and interrogations in 1996.

On November 19, 1999, Debbie was promoted to Office Specialist and has provided superior administrative support to the Investigations Bureau, Training Unit, and Support Services Division over the years. Debbie received numerous commendations from co-workers and citizens for her teamwork, customer service and friendly demeanor. Debbie was also selected as the Police Department's

Employee of the Quarter for July-September, 2011, and the Police Department's Employee of the Year in 1996 and 2011. Debbie is known to be reliable, detailed-orientated, and provides high quality of work.

Debbie has been a valued employee and her commitment to the City of Fairfield and its constituents was evident on a daily basis. She is admired for her hard work, dedication, and selfless contributions.

Debbie has been a valued employee and her commitment to the community was second to none. Debbie was a loyal representative of the City of Fairfield and admired for her hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Golden Anniversary of the Fairbanks North Star Borough. In 1901, during the midst of the Alaska Gold Rush, the first pioneers settled on the banks of the Chena River on the land that would become the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The discovery of gold created a population boom in the region, and the town of Fairbanks was established. In 1963, the Alaska Legislature passed the Mandatory Borough Act requiring that the most populated areas in the state join together to form organized borough governments. Fairbanks students won a competition to name the borough the North Star Borough, and in 1966, the name was officially changed to the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Over the last 50 years, the Borough has grown tremendously to become the second largest community in Alaska with a population of over 100,000 residents, and is commonly referred to as the "Golden Heart of Alaska." The Fairbanks North Star Borough has managed a unique juxtaposition by retaining the small-town pioneer quality that existed in the early 1900s, yet thriving with a modern and youthful spirit stemming from the economic opportuni-

ties in the area, as well as being the home of the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus.

After the gold rush, the next economic boom in the region was the discovery of oil in Prudhoe Bay on Alaska's North Slope. Fairbanks North Star Borough was the closest large town to the project, and as a result, construction on the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline began in 1974. The pipeline was completed in 1977, traveling over frozen tundra, the boreal forest, 800 rivers and streams, three major earthquake faults, and three rugged mountain ranges. The exploding construction of the 800-mile pipeline brought more than 30,000 job opportunities to Fairbanks over the years.

Today, the Borough is home to many Alaskans, Military Servicemen and women stationed at Ft. Wainwright Army Base and Eielson Air Force Base, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, enrolling 10,800 students annually. Ft. Wainwright and Eielson AFB's strategic locations and Fairbanks' uniquely harsh climate prepare units to deploy anywhere in the world for contingencies ranging from humanitarian relief to combat operations. Eielson AFB remains a strategic location for refueling and North American Aerospace Defense Command.

On behalf of the State of Alaska, Fairbanks North Star Borough has hosted many international sporting events such as the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics, Junior Olympics, and the 2014 Arctic Winter Games. Fairbanks is also home to the Yukon Quest, an international 1,000 mile sled dog that is considered one of the toughest in the world.

Fairbanks North Star Borough has and will continue to provide important energy and mineral resources, defense tools, and education for Alaskans. The borough encourages vibrant, engaged citizens, and continues to provide for residents and businesses not only in the State of Alaska, but in the entire United States of America. I know that Fairbanks North Star Borough will continue to serve as a wonderful example for towns across the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all Members of Congress to join me in congratulating the Fairbanks North Star Borough on its Golden Anniversary.